Grants boost science, technology

This fall, technology and engineering programs at Gladstone High School (GHS) and Kraxberger Middle School (KMS) received a boost from grant funds.

- $12,500 to help fund environmental education at sixth grade Outdoor School;
- $675 from the SPEEA STEM grant program (a union of Boeing employees) to support the high school robotics club;
- $5,500 from Oregon FIRST Robotics to launch a middle school robotics club at Kraxberger, and to send the high school robotics team to a regional competition.
- $7,000 from Daimler Trucking to support technology classes at GHS.

“Participating in activities like robotics club helps kids build a foundation for their future,” explained Kraxberger Principal Nancy Bailey. “We hope every student will discover their passion in an activity with focused after school time, skill mastery, adult mentors, and a fun way to explore career options.”

Thirty three students joined the robotics club at Kraxberger Middle School. The group will participate in at least one regional competition this year.

We’re Glad:
Gladstone High has 17 sports teams, and 44% of students compete in at least one sport.
Glad Report
Gladstone Schools

Church volunteers help Gladstone schools

More than 125 people from churches across Gladstone joined forces in August as part of the annual “Church Out Day,” tackling a variety of projects to ready Gladstone’s schools for the arrival of students in September. The event was organized by the Gladstone Ministerial Association (GMA).

A group of 25 worked to repaint the interiors of two modular classrooms at the high school, preparing them to house a community clothing bank that will open later this fall to serve students.

In addition, more than 100 volunteers did weeding, maintenance, and bark dust spreading around Gladstone’s four school buildings.

“Church Out Day lasts about four hours, and it’s amazing what such a big, hard-working group can achieve in that time frame,” said Maintenance Supervisor Chris Green. “We are so grateful.”

Participants included Gladstone Christian Church, Gladstone Church of the Nazarene, Gladstone First Baptist, Gospel Fellowship Community Church, and St. Stephen’s Lutheran.

What’s next? The GMA is now at work creating a clothes closet to help struggling families.

New leader directs Gladstone Center

Don Brown is the new director at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families, which houses kindergarten classes. He also serves as the district’s Director of Curriculum and Assessment.

Brown holds a doctorate in education from the University of Oregon. He has taught elementary music and fifth grade and served in administrative roles in several Oregon school districts. He is also a volunteer solar system ambassador for NASA.

“Don is dedicated to supporting families to ensure the success of each child.” said Superintendent Bob Stewart. “I am delighted that he has joined our team.”

GHS students build electric vehicle

After school, Colton Anderson, 16, is honing his mechanical skills, part of a Gladstone High club that is converting a 1986 Chevy pickup into an electric vehicle. Along the way, the group is also learning problem-solving, crowd sourcing, clean energy, and marketing skills.

English teacher Steve Carrigg launched the Gladstone Electric Vehicle Organization (GEVO) in 2011 as a way to engage students in learning outside the classroom, while supporting the school’s sustainability mission.

The Electric Vehicle club gives students a chance to gain hands-on experience with technology.

Several donors and partners have stepped up to support the project, including the National Guard’s 3670th Maintenance Company at Camp Withycomb.

“We’re hoping to find business partners, grants, in-kind donations, and other support for the project,” said Carrigg. “As a teacher, I know how much students gain from exploring potential careers. The students I’m working with are interested in environmental engineering, mechanics, and even public relations.”

The group hopes to complete the project by the end of the school year, providing an electric vehicle to haul materials around the school district.
Classes offer parent tips

Parenting is a tough job, but here’s help: the Gladstone Center for Children & Families offers several free classes.

Three drop-in classes at 18905 Portland Avenue provide information geared to the age of one’s children. Free dinner and childcare are always provided. For information on the first three classes, sponsored by Family Stepping Stones, call Chelsea Hamilton at 503.496.5764.

**Beautiful Babies:** This class for parents with children under 18 months meets first Thursdays from October – May. Topics include child development and milestones, parenting styles, self-care, sleeping, feeding, and playing with your baby.

**Terrific Toddlers:** This class for parents with children 18 months to 3 years old meets 2nd Thursdays from October – May. Topics include toilet training, child safety, positive discipline strategies, learning through play, and ways to encourage language and social development.

**Growing Up:** This class for parents with children age 3 to 6 meets 3rd Thursdays from October – May. Topics include school readiness, healthy screen time and nutrition, love languages, and positive sibling and peer relationships.

Two free parent classes in Spanish are offered by Northwest Family Services:

**Parenting on Purpose:**
This class for Spanish-speaking parents of children age 3 to 12 helps them support their children’s success in school. The group meets from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Fridays through December 13 at the Wetten Elementary library, 250 Exeter Street. Free dinner, and childcare are provided. To register, call Zulma Ramirez at 503.278.3578.

**Make Parenting a Pleasure:** This class for Spanish-speaking parents of toddlers meets 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Fridays through November 15 at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families. Dinner, childcare, and activities are provided. To register, call Nydia Santos at 971.255.5680.

More than 100 students, staff, and others were part of Gladstone Schools’ 5K September fun run, part of a district wide fitness program.

**Elementary staff leads fitness initiative**

The John Wetten Elementary staff often leads by example. Now in the second year of a health initiative they are taking fitness classes after work, from resistance training and running to Zumba. The project is funded by a grant from OEA Choice.

Program leaders invited the whole community to join a 5K fun run in September. More than 100 staff, students, and others participated. “We want to expand the program to another school, and find more ways to get students excited about fitness,” said P.E. teacher Trey Mott.

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Feds visit Gladstone High as part of sustainability tour

In September, officials from the Department of Education, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Environmental Quality Council toured Gladstone High and other award-winning sustainable schools in Oregon.

The goal is to get students on track for future careers.

Gladstone High, Catlin Gabel, Willamina Elementary, and Sunnyside Environmental, were recognized as Green Ribbon Schools in 2012. Each honoree created safe, healthy, sustainable schools; wellness programs; and environmental education.

Tour participants collected input on ways to encourage innovation at the state, district, and school levels.

“We are interested in how school facilities can improve health and performance for our nation’s youngest children and high poverty learners,” said Andrea Falken, director of the Green Ribbon Schools program. “The goal is to get students on track for the careers of the future.”

Volunteers needed at John Wetten and Gladstone Center

John Wetten Elementary is seeking volunteers for the Lunch Buddy Program, which pairs at-risk students with an adult mentor. The mentor spends one hour each week sharing lunch and recess activities with their lunch buddy. To apply, call Volunteer Coordinator Angela Johnson at 503.656.6564.

The Gladstone Center for Children & Families needs volunteers to help in kindergarten classes, the Family Stepping Stones relief nursery, and the Head Start preschool. Volunteers mentor small groups, run playtime, guide art projects, and help children build early reading skills. To apply, call Susan Trone at 503.496.3939, ext. 306.

Education Foundation plans auction, rummage sale

Since 2000, the Gladstone Education Foundation (GEF) has worked to raise funds to help bridge the funding gap for school programs. This year, the GEF plans two fundraisers in support of schools.

The Annual Dinner & Auction is scheduled for Saturday, February 15 at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds. This year’s event has a “country chic” theme, and includes both a silent auction and an oral auction. Tickets cost $40 per person and a table of 8 is $320. All proceeds will support school and family support programs in the Gladstone District.

To order tickets, to make a donation, or to be an event sponsor, email Tammy at tracyt@gladstone.k12.or.us

A Rummage Sale is planned as a spring fundraiser. To donate items, call Kathy at 971-227-2655 or Corinne at 503-722-2284 to arrange for drop off or pick up of items.

The GEF seeks donations of clean, gently-used items: furniture, tools, bikes, toys, CDs, books, games, antiques, home decor, purses, clothing, or small appliances. (No old TVs or computers will be accepted.)